

## CLAIMS

1. An information providing system in which a broadcast receiving apparatus for receiving and demodulating broadcast signals of a selected frequency and a broadcast station specifying server for specifying a broadcasting station as a source of transmission of said broadcast signals are interconnected over a network, wherein

said broadcast receiving apparatus includes user transmitting means for transmitting data over said network and user receiving means for receiving data over said network;

said broadcast station specifying server including broadcasting station specifying server storage means for storing frequency data corresponding to the frequency of said broadcasting signals, territory data corresponding to the territory where said broadcast receiving apparatus is used, and broadcasting station data corresponding to a broadcasting station specified by said frequency data and said territory data, broadcasting station specifying server retrieving means for retrieving broadcasting station data stored in said broadcasting station specifying server storage means, based on said frequency data and said territory data, broadcasting station specifying server receiving means for receiving data over said network and broadcasting station specifying server transmitting means for transmitting data over said network;

said user transmitting means transmitting said territory data and said frequency data to said broadcast station specifying server;

said broadcasting station specifying server receiving means receiving said territory data transmitted by said user transmitting means and frequency data corresponding to the frequency of broadcast signals received by said broadcast receiving apparatus;

said broadcasting station specifying server retrieving means retrieving said broadcasting station data based on said territory data and said frequency data, received by said broadcasting station specifying server receiving means;

said broadcasting station specifying server transmitting means transmitting said broadcasting station data, retrieved by said broadcasting station specifying server retrieving means, to said broadcast receiving apparatus;

said user receiving means receiving the broadcasting station data, transmitted by said broadcasting station specifying server transmitting means.

2. The information providing system according to claim 1 wherein

said broadcast receiving apparatus is connected over said network to a relevant information providing server;

said relevant information providing server including relevant information providing server storage means for storing relevant information data corresponding to the relevant information of said broadcast signals, relevant information providing server receiving means for receiving said broadcasting station data transmitted from

said broadcast receiving apparatus, relevant information providing server retrieving means for retrieving relevant information data corresponding to the information relevant to broadcast signals received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, based on said broadcasting station data received by said relevant information providing server receiving means, and relevant information providing server transmitting means for transmitting relevant information data retrieved by said relevant information providing server retrieving means to said broadcast receiving apparatus;

said user transmitting means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, transmitting the broadcasting station information to said relevant information providing server;

said user receiving means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, receiving said relevant information data transmitted by said relevant information server transmitting means provided to said relevant information providing server.

3. The information providing system according to claim 1 wherein said broadcasting station specifying server and the relevant information providing server are unified together.

4. The information providing system according to claim 2 wherein said broadcast receiving apparatus is connected over said network to a contents distributing server adapted for distributing the contents;

said contents distributing server including contents distributing server storage

means for storing contents distributed to said broadcast receiving apparatus and/or key data necessary for reproduction of said contents, contents distribution server receiving means for receiving said relevant information data transmitted from said broadcast receiving apparatus, contents distribution server retrieving means for retrieving said contents and/or said key data stored in said contents distributing server storage means, based on said relevant information data received by said contents distribution server receiving means, and contents distribution server transmitting means for transmitting said contents and/or said key data retrieved by said contents distribution server retrieving means to said broadcast receiving apparatus;

said user transmitting means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, transmitting said relevant information data to said contents distributing server;

said user receiving means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, receiving said contents and/or said key data transmitted by said contents distributing server transmitting means.

5. The information providing system according to claim 2 wherein said broadcast receiving apparatus is connected to a recording medium sale server, adapted for selling recording mediums, having contents recorded thereon, over said network;

said recording medium sale server including recording medium sale server storage means, having stored therein recording medium specifying data specifying the recording mediums to be on sale, recording medium sale server receiving means

receiving said relevant information data transmitted from said broadcast receiving apparatus, recording medium sale server retrieving means for retrieving said recording medium specifying data stored in said recording medium sale server storage means, based on said relevant information data received by said recording medium sale server receiving means, and recording medium sale server transmitting means for transmitting the recording medium specifying data retrieved by said recording medium sale server retrieving means;

said user transmitting means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, transmitting said relevant information data through said recording medium sale server;

said user receiving means provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus receiving said recording medium specifying data transmitted by said contents distributing server transmitting means;

said user transmitting means, provided to said broadcast receiving apparatus, transmitting desired recording medium specifying data, out of the recording medium specifying data received by said user receiving means;

said recording medium sale server performing processing for selling the recording mediums based on recording medium data transmitted by said broadcast receiving apparatus.

6. A broadcast receiving apparatus for receiving and demodulating broadcast signals of a selected frequency, comprising

receiving means for receiving data over a network; and

transmitting means for transmitting data over said network;

said transmitting means transmitting frequency data corresponding to the frequency of said broadcast signals being received and territory data corresponding to the territory where the broadcast receiving apparatus is used, to a broadcasting station specifying server specifying broadcasting station data corresponding to a broadcasting station transmitting the broadcasting signals;

said receiving means receiving broadcasting station data transmitted from said broadcasting station specifying server.

7. The broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said transmitting means transmits said broadcasting station data over said network to a relevant information providing server providing relevant information data corresponding to the relevant information of broadcast signals received;

said receiving means receiving said relevant information data transmitted from said relevant information providing server over said network.

8. The broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said transmitting means transmits said relevant information data over said network to a contents distribution server distributing contents and/or key data needed for using the contents;

said receiving means receiving said contents and/or the key data transmitted from said contents distribution server over said network.

9. The broadcast receiving apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said transmitting means transmits said relevant information data over said network to a recording medium sale server selling recording mediums having contents stored therein;

said receiving means receiving recording medium specifying data, specifying the recording mediums for sale, transmitted from said recording medium sale server, over said network;

said transmitting means transmitting desired recording medium specifying data, out of said recording medium specifying data received by said receiving means, to said recording medium sale server.

10. A broadcasting station specifying server connected over a network to a broadcast receiving apparatus adapted for receiving and demodulating broadcast signals transmitted from a broadcasting station, comprising

storage means for storing frequency data corresponding to the frequency of said broadcast signals, territory data corresponding to the territory where the broadcast receiving apparatus is used, and broadcasting station data corresponding to the broadcasting station specified by said frequency data and said territory data;

receiving means for receiving said frequency data and said territory data transmitted from said broadcast receiving apparatus;

retrieving means for retrieving broadcasting station data corresponding to a broadcasting station transmitting broadcast signals being received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, from broadcasting station data stored in said storage means,

based on said frequency data and said territory data, received by said receiving means; and

transmitting means for transmitting said broadcasting station data, retrieved by said retrieving means, to said broadcast receiving apparatus.

11. An information providing method comprising

a first interconnecting step of interconnecting a broadcast receiving apparatus for receiving and demodulating broadcast signals of a selected frequency and a broadcast station specifying server specifying a broadcasting station as a source of transmission of said broadcast signals, over a network;

a first transmitting step of said broadcast receiving apparatus transmitting frequency data corresponding to the frequency of broadcast signals being received, and territory data corresponding to a territory where said broadcast receiving apparatus is used, to said broadcast station specifying server;

a first receiving step of said broadcast station specifying server receiving said frequency data and the territory data transmitted in said first transmitting step;

a first retrieving step of retrieving broadcasting station data corresponding to a broadcasting station transmitting said broadcast signals being received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, based on said frequency data and the territory data received in said first receiving step;

a second transmitting step of transmitting said broadcasting station data, retrieved by said first retrieving step, to said broadcast receiving apparatus; and



a second receiving step of said broadcast receiving apparatus receiving said broadcasting station data transmitted in said second transmitting step.

12. The information providing method according to claim 11 further comprising

a second connection step of interconnecting said broadcast receiving apparatus and a relevant information providing server transmitting relevant information data of broadcast signals being received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, over a network;

a third transmitting step of said broadcast receiving apparatus transmitting said broadcasting station data, received in said second receiving step, to said relevant information providing server;

a third receiving step of said relevant information providing server receiving broadcasting station data transmitted from said broadcast receiving apparatus in said third transmitting step;

a second retrieving step of retrieving relevant information data corresponding to the relevant information of broadcast signals being received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, based on broadcasting station data received by said third receiving step;

a fourth transmitting step of transmitting the relevant information data, retrieved by said second retrieving step, to said broadcast receiving apparatus; and

a fourth receiving step of said broadcast receiving apparatus receiving relevant information data transmitted in said fourth transmitting step.

13. The information providing method according to claim 12 further comprising  
a third interconnecting step of interconnecting said broadcast receiving apparatus and a contents distributing server distributing contents data and/or key data necessary in using said contents data, over a network;

a fifth transmitting step of said broadcast receiving apparatus transmitting said relevant information data received by said fourth receiving step to said contents distributing server;

a fifth receiving step of said contents distributing server receiving relevant information data transmitted in said fifth transmitting step from said broadcast receiving apparatus;

a third retrieving step of said contents distributing server retrieving said contents data and/or said key data based on the relevant information data received in said fifth receiving step;

a sixth transmitting step of said contents distributing server transmitting said contents data and/or said key data retrieved in said third retrieving step to said broadcast receiving apparatus; and

a sixth receiving step of said broadcast receiving apparatus receiving said contents data and/or said key data transmitted in said sixth transmitting step.

14. The information providing method according to claim 12 further comprising

a fourth interconnecting step of interconnecting, over a network, said broadcast receiving apparatus and a recording medium sale server selling recording

mediums having contents recorded thereon;

a seventh transmitting step of said broadcast receiving apparatus transmitting said relevant information data received in said fourth receiving step to said recording medium sale server;

a seventh receiving step of said recording medium sale server receiving relevant information data transmitted in said seventh transmitting step from said broadcast receiving apparatus;

a fourth retrieving step of said recording medium sale server retrieving recording medium specifying data, specifying recording mediums that are on sale, based on the relevant information data received in said seventh receiving step;

an eighth transmitting step of said recording medium sale server transmitting the recording medium specifying data, retrieved in said fourth retrieving step, to said broadcast receiving apparatus;

an eighth receiving step of said broadcast receiving apparatus receiving the recording medium specifying data, transmitted in said eighth transmitting step;

a ninth transmitting step of said broadcast receiving apparatus transmitting desired recording medium specifying data, out of the recording medium specifying data received in said eighth receiving step, to said recording medium sale server;  
and

a sale processing step of said recording medium sale server performing sale processing of recording mediums, based on recording medium specifying data

transmitted in said ninth transmitting step.

15. A method for receiving the information by a broadcast receiving apparatus receiving and demodulating broadcast signals of a selected frequency, comprising

a first connecting step of connecting to a broadcasting station specifying server specifying a broadcasting station transmitting the broadcast signals over a network;

a first transmitting step of transmitting frequency data corresponding to the frequency of broadcast signals being received and territory data corresponding to the territory where said broadcast receiving apparatus is used, to said broadcasting station specifying server over said network; and

a first receiving step receiving, from said broadcasting station specifying server, broadcasting station data, corresponding to a broadcasting station transmitting the broadcast signals being received.

16. The information receiving method according to claim 15 comprising

a second connecting step of connecting to the relevant information providing server, transmitting relevant information data corresponding to the information relevant to the broadcast signals, over a network;

a second transmitting step of transmitting said broadcasting station data to said relevant information providing server; and

a second receiving step of receiving relevant information data, corresponding to the information relevant to the broadcast signals being received, from said

relevant information providing server.

17. The information receiving method according to claim 16 further comprising

a third connecting step of connecting to a contents distributing server, over a network;

a third transmitting step of transmitting said relevant information data, received in said second receiving step, to said contents distributing server; and

a third receiving step of receiving contents data and/or key data necessary for using the contents data from said contents distributing server.

18. The information receiving method according to claim 16 further comprising

a fourth connecting step of connecting, over a network, to a recording medium sale server selling recording mediums, having contents data recorded thereon;

a fourth transmitting step of transmitting the relevant information data received in said second receiving step to said recording medium sale server;

a third receiving step of receiving recording medium specifying data transmitted from said recording medium sale server, said recording medium specifying data specifying recording mediums that are on sale; and

a fifth transmitting step of transmitting desired recording medium specifying data out of the recording medium specifying data received in said third receiving step.

19. A method for specifying a broadcasting station by a broadcasting station

specifying server connected over a network to a broadcast receiving apparatus receiving and demodulating broadcast signals of a selected frequency, comprising

a receiving step of receiving frequency data corresponding to the frequency of broadcast signals received by said broadcast receiving apparatus and territory data corresponding to the territory where said broadcast receiving apparatus is used;

a retrieving step of retrieving broadcasting station data corresponding to the broadcasting station transmitting the broadcast signals being received by said broadcast receiving apparatus, based on said frequency data and the territory data received in said receiving step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the broadcasting station data retrieved by said retrieving step to said broadcast receiving apparatus.